

MISSISSIPPI
BAPTIST RECORD.
J. B. GAMRELL, - - - Editor.
M. T. MARTIN, - - - Preceptor.
TERMS—\$2.50 per Annum, in Advance.
CLINTON, MISSISSIPPI.
THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 1877.

THIS AND THAT.

Don't forget to send postal cards with the news.

The Herald thinks D. D. Rowland will do no good as a Baptist. Let him alone severely.

The narrow gauge railroad from Middleton to Ripley is to be extended to New Albany, Union county.

We notice that some of our exchanges are correcting misstatements about each other. There is honor in the craft.

The Mission Board of the Tishomingo Association is called, to meet in Boonville Saturday before the 5th Sunday in this month.

Parents and novel readers, please read the first piece on the fourth page this week. The promising novel reading indulged in by the average young lady of the day is an unspeakable evil.

Most of us exchanges are wanting more subscribers; some one thousand, some five hundred and some a great many. We are doing well, but would like to enter two hundred and fifty names more on our list by the 1st of July.

Bro. Lowery, by request, recently delivered a public lecture to the young men about Blue Mountain. He came out on tobacco and whisky pretty heavily and some of the young men have thrown away their quids. We advise others to follow this example.

W. D. M., in the Southern Baptist, is hardly willing to allow that Brethren Relyea, Link and ourselves are genuine Landmarkers. Brethren, what are we to do about it? But indeed if Landmark means every thing, it is, very doubtful whether there is a genuine Landmark among us.

Bro. Gressett says he hopes to have two thousand subscribers by 1st of July. That will be doing remarkably well. And most of these would have taken no paper if the Southern Baptist had not been started. Who will say that it was unsafe to have such a paper? In our judgment the establishing of the Southern Baptist was the best thing that was ever done for Southern Mississippi.

A Dead Press.

Since the late revolution, though all the time burdened with heavy business cares, we found time to give some attention to religious journalism in the South. For several months past, we have made it a special study. And the conclusion we have reached, whether right or wrong, is still very painful to our heart. To us, it appears, that the religious press in the South is not merely without soul, but dead.—Baptist Reflector.

Bro. Mayfield must have been looking at the paper question through "blue glass" when he wrote the above extract, and a good deal more like it. It is true beyond dispute that the Southern press is not all that could be desired, but surely there is some life left, and some soul too. We could mention several papers that seem to us to be not altogether dead. For instance, the Religious Herald, the Baptist, Texas Baptist Herald, Index, and we have noticed a few signs of life in the Reflector. There is one more we might mention, but modesty forbids. We hope the Reflector will lead off in the work of resurrection, and show us how it is done.

STATE MISSIONS.—The work that particularly claims our attention for the next two months is State Missions. Read what Bro. Walne says about it in another column. The amount necessary can be raised with out any great difficulty, if we try. The church at Clinton agreed last Sunday to give current collections for the present quarter to our State Mission Board. We are anxious to hear that a large number of pastors will take a special interest in this important matter. Who will join us and try to raise one hundred dollars by the meeting of the Convention in July?

PHILOMATHIAN ANNIVERSARY.—The Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Philomathian Literary Society will be celebrated in the College Chapel on the evening of May 4th. The exercises will be varied, and suited for the entertainment of all. This is an old established custom, and has been in existence since the organization of the Society. All are cordially invited to attend. Every endeavor will be made to please.

Errata.

Several mistakes occurred in the communication on Ladies' Missionary Associations last week. In the heading it was Societies, where it should have been Associations. Again we had it *seventy* schools, where it should have been *forty*. Several other mistakes occurred. We will divide responsibility, and do now beg pardon.

Denominational Drift.

As a denomination we are not, as many would have the world to believe, on the eve of destruction by reason of laxity in discipline and doctrine. No doubt some very grave defects in both of these particulars may be noted; but, upon the whole, we think the outlook is encouraging. Our observations must extend over a considerable period of time in order that we form any proper conception of the real drift. As to

DISCIPLINE.

and the general deportment of Christians we think there has been within less than a half century very marked improvement. Take for instance the one sin of drinking and drunkenness. Time was within the recollection of many now living, when drinking was almost universal. Even preachers were habitual drinkers, many times carrying whisky with them on their rounds of preaching. How is it now? It is hard to find a preacher who drinks at all, and, if it is known, that one does drink, he loses, at once, all his influence. This indicates improvement. The leaders of our churches are, as a rule, total abstinence men. Certainly they never were so many men and women to oppose this monstrous social evil. We are of the impression that drunkenness is dealt with by our churches much more summarily than formerly.

In the Southwest the laws of church discipline, we think, are much better understood than they used to be. True, we hear doleful accounts of laxity in church discipline, and no doubt cases occur, here and there to justify these complaints. So far, however, as our observation extends, the churches, as a rule, are walking orderly. We don't know a church in Mississippi that tolerates dancing even in its members. They may be solid, but we are not acquainted with them. And more, we do not know a minister of any standing who does not advocate strict discipline.

On another point we may safely congratulate ourselves. Nowhere do we know a church that will tolerate practical open communion or spiritism or alien immersions. Further east and north there may be many of them, but it would be hard to find such a church in the Southwest, and particularly in Mississippi.

We cannot join in with that right large class of writers and speakers who have agreed among themselves, and who so give out, that we are doctrinally near the pit of destruction. On the contrary, we think the drift is decidedly the other way. There was a time, and not so long ago either, when there seemed to be a tendency to laxity in doctrine; but some saw it and cried out, and we were turned back, from run.

Taking a wide range of observation, running back through our denominational history, one can see great improvement of the past. Our fathers did and believed things which we utterly reject as sound. But coming to our own time, how is it?

A quarter or third of century ago began the Landmark discussion technically, so called, the vast majority of Baptists in the South and West, as in all the world, were opposed to the doctrines set forth by Pendleton in his tract, and powerfully defended by J. R. Graves in the Tennessee Baptist. To bring the denomination, with all its papers and forces on the other side to reverse its practice seemed impossible. And yet it has been measurably done in the South, and almost completely done in the Southwest. We hazard nothing in saying that our denominational drift is strongly in the direction of Landmarkism. Old men, as a rule, will not change, but young ones will see the path of consistency and walk in it. Landmarkism has even found a footing in the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, though Eastern brethren mainly control the institution. And there must be more of it there to satisfy the conscience of more than a quarter of a million of Baptists in the South.

We are, perhaps, drawing to the close of a very warm discussion of the alien immersion dogma, thrust upon our attention by Pike. The Herald says that Pike has as many lives as a cat, and will die at the will of his opponents, or something like that. Long may Pike live to write more, and write better. As one who has taken a part in the controversy, we feel remarkably well satisfied with the drift. The sentiment of doing a great good is at hand, and we should at once set our hands to work.

Next week the Record will have a letter from a colored pastor on this subject. Also some remarks by St. Clair Lawrence, on the same subject.

The editor of the Mississippi Baptist Record asks that we mail to him, at Clinton, a letter of advice which was forwarded to us for publication; but the writer of the letter instructs us to return it, unless it is printed in the Herald. If we publish, it may hurt the feelings of Bro. Gambrell, and of several others. What is to be done about it? It is a great pity Bro. Gambrell asked for advice in regard to editing his paper.—Religious Herald.

We are pleased, and more pleased, because, in settling that question, light has been thrown on several other equally important doctrines.

Church succession, as a doctrine was believed and defended by very few Baptists thirty or forty years ago.

The Old Tennessee Baptist and later the Baptist, its successor, was the champion of this doctrine. Now the body of Southern Baptists, if not of America, have come over to the defense of the doctrine, or have strong

leanings that way. We firmly believe that Bro. Graves may live to see this article of faith almost as universally accepted among Baptists as restricted communion. A very few years ago—from two to six or eight—the hosts of Pedobaptists moved down upon us and threw the weight of their columns on the

COMMUNION.

angle in our wall of defense. It looked for a while like we might not be able to hold the fort. Several

of our ministers, more or less noted,

went over to the enemy. Pedobaptist

papers rang with the shouts of

victory. The conflict is pretty well over for the present, and we can begin to sum up results; and what are they? Well, in the fight we lost a few men, Jeffreys, Sawtelle, and a dozen more like them perhaps, but during the time we gained two for one from the ranks of the enemy. We did well. And more, several of those who left us, in faith, have returned; such, for instance, as J. A. Chambliss, of Charleston, S. C., and Sawtelle, of San Francisco. The discussions that followed the attack referred to have settled and fixed our people in the truth for the present. Of course the same thing will have to go over again some day, but present drift is in the direction of soundness in the communion question, and this is greatly helped by the *stately* wild theories recently adopted by many open communists.

In conclusion, we think the outlook decidedly cheering. The drift is decidedly in the direction of higher and firmer doctrinal ground, and no doubt cases occur, here and there to justify these complaints. So far, however, as our observation extends, the churches, as a rule, are walking orderly. We don't know a church in Mississippi that tolerates dancing even in its members. They may be solid, but we are not acquainted with them. And more, we do not know a minister of any standing who does not advocate strict discipline.

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Installation-Summing Up.

When once a discussion gets going, it is hard to stop it. We have found this true of the running discussion about Installations, which has been going on for some time in this paper and the Southern Baptist. We have given more attention to it than in our judgement its importance demanded, but we consent to give to the other side a full hearing this week, and with this summing up, we close

the custom unprofitable, or wrong, let them act accordingly.

They make jugs at Holly Springs,

and use them all over the State.

They have a flourishing male and female academy at Ashland, Benton County.

They are the weightiest words of all.

May things be lawful that are not

peculiar. We are sincerely sorry

that our brethren are grieved.

It is questionable whether the profit

arising from such a service, will offset

the evil of wounding good and faith-

brethren. If it is to create dissatis-

faction among us, we say by all

means, let's stop.

Now in the confession of the whole

want to say that we care very

little about the thing in controversy,

but do not want to see, or anything

else condemned for insufficient reasons,

or on principles, which if faithfully

applied to other things of like nature,

would sweep away our best means of

usefulness. If Bro. Gressett will insert

this piece in his paper, so that his

readers can see just where we stand,

we will thank him.

We now give the case to the jury.

News Items.

The Health of Clinton and vicinity is good.

Dr. Sandford has moved from Blue

mountain to Hickory Flat.

Farmers in North Mississippi are

behind hand on account of rain.

They make jugs at Holly Springs,

and use them all over the State.

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female academy at Ashland, Benton

County.

met with unusual success for that sea-

son of the year, but was soon smitten

down with disease, brought on by ex-

cessive labor during the intolerably

hot weather of July and August.

Partially recovering, I entered the

field again, but was soon prostrated.

Repeated efforts to work and repeat-

ed relapses, brought on a condition

of health that threatened the most se-

rious consequences. Entire cessation

from work became absolutely nec-

essary; consequently I gave up

traveling altogether and sought the

restoration of my health. This sea-

son of ill health extended through

most of the fall and winter, the very

time when I expected to make the

largest collections. As it was, very

little money was received, and that

little being divided out among so

many

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CLINTON, MISSISSIPPI
THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 1877.

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| 4 inches | 64.00 | 32.00 | 16.00 | 8.00 | 4.00 |
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| 9 inches | 144.00 | 72.00 | 36.00 | 18.00 | 9.00 |
| 10 inches | 160.00 | 80.00 | 40.00 | 20.00 | 10.00 |
| 11 inches | 176.00 | 88.00 | 44.00 | 22.00 | 11.00 |
| 12 inches | 192.00 | 96.00 | 48.00 | 24.00 | 12.00 |
| 13 inches | 208.00 | 104.00 | 52.00 | 26.00 | 13.00 |
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| 17 inches | 272.00 | 136.00 | 68.00 | 34.00 | 17.00 |
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| 21 inches | 336.00 | 168.00 | 84.00 | 42.00 | 21.00 |
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| 23 inches | 368.00 | 184.00 | 92.00 | 46.00 | 23.00 |
| 24 inches | 384.00 | 192.00 | 96.00 | 48.00 | 24.00 |
| 25 inches | 400.00 | 200.00 | 100.00 | 50.00 | 25.00 |
| 26 inches | 416.00 | 208.00 | 104.00 | 52.00 | 26.00 |
| 27 inches | 432.00 | 216.00 | 108.00 | 54.00 | 27.00 |
| 28 inches | 448.00 | 224.00 | 112.00 | 56.00 | 28.00 |
| 29 inches | 464.00 | 232.00 | 116.00 | 58.00 | 29.00 |
| 30 inches | 480.00 | 240.00 | 120.00 | 60.00 | 30.00 |
| 31 inches | 496.00 | 248.00 | 124.00 | 62.00 | 31.00 |
| 32 inches | 512.00 | 256.00 | 128.00 | 64.00 | 32.00 |
| 33 inches | 528.00 | 264.00 | 132.00 | 66.00 | 33.00 |
| 34 inches | 544.00 | 272.00 | 136.00 | 68.00 | 34.00 |
| 35 inches | 560.00 | 280.00 | 140.00 | 70.00 | 35.00 |
| 36 inches | 576.00 | 288.00 | 144.00 | 72.00 | 36.00 |
| 37 inches | 592.00 | 296.00 | 148.00 | 74.00 | 37.00 |
| 38 inches | 608.00 | 304.00 | 152.00 | 76.00 | 38.00 |
| 39 inches | 624.00 | 312.00 | 156.00 | 78.00 | 39.00 |
| 40 inches | 640.00 | 320.00 | 160.00 | 80.00 | 40.00 |
| 41 inches | 656.00 | 328.00 | 164.00 | 82.00 | 41.00 |
| 42 inches | 672.00 | 336.00 | 168.00 | 84.00 | 42.00 |
| 43 inches | 688.00 | 344.00 | 172.00 | 86.00 | 43.00 |
| 44 inches | 704.00 | 352.00 | 176.00 | 88.00 | 44.00 |
| 45 inches | 720.00 | 360.00 | 180.00 | 90.00 | 45.00 |
| 46 inches | 736.00 | 368.00 | 184.00 | 92.00 | 46.00 |
| 47 inches | 752.00 | 376.00 | 188.00 | 94.00 | 47.00 |
| 48 inches | 768.00 | 384.00 | 192.00 | 96.00 | 48.00 |
| 49 inches | 784.00 | 392.00 | 196.00 | 98.00 | 49.00 |
| 50 inches | 800.00 | 400.00 | 200.00 | 100.00 | 50.00 |
| 51 inches | 816.00 | 408.00 | 204.00 | 102.00 | 51.00 |
| 52 inches | 832.00 | 416.00 | 208.00 | 104.00 | 52.00 |
| 53 inches | 848.00 | 424.00 | 212.00 | 106.00 | 53.00 |
| 54 inches | 864.00 | 432.00 | 216.00 | 108.00 | 54.00 |
| 55 inches | 880.00 | 440.00 | 220.00 | 110.00 | 55.00 |
| 56 inches | 896.00 | 448.00 | 224.00 | 112.00 | 56.00 |
| 57 inches | 912.00 | 456.00 | 228.00 | 114.00 | 57.00 |
| 58 inches | 928.00 | 464.00 | 232.00 | 116.00 | 58.00 |
| 59 inches | 944.00 | 472.00 | 236.00 | 118.00 | 59.00 |
| 60 inches | 960.00 | 480.00 | 240.00 | 120.00 | 60.00 |
| 61 inches | 976.00 | 488.00 | 244.00 | 122.00 | 61.00 |
| 62 inches | 992.00 | 496.00 | 248.00 | 124.00 | 62.00 |
| 63 inches | 1008.00 | 504.00 | 252.00 | 126.00 | 63.00 |
| 64 inches | 1024.00 | 512.00 | 256.00 | 128.00 | 64.00 |
| 65 inches | 1040.00 | 520.00 | 260.00 | 130.00 | 65.00 |
| 66 inches | 1056.00 | 528.00 | 264.00 | 132.00 | 66.00 |
| 67 inches | 1072.00 | 536.00 | 268.00 | 134.00 | 67.00 |
| 68 inches | 1088.00 | 544.00 | 272.00 | 136.00 | 68.00 |
| 69 inches | 1104.00 | 552.00 | 276.00 | 138.00 | 69.00 |
| 70 inches | 1120.00 | 560.00 | 280.00 | 140.00 | 70.00 |
| 71 inches | 1136.00 | 568.00 | 284.00 | 142.00 | 71.00 |
| 72 inches | 1152.00 | 576.00 | 288.00 | 144.00 | 72.00 |
| 73 inches | 1168.00 | 584.00 | 292.00 | 146.00 | 73.00 |
| 74 inches | 1184.00 | 592.00 | 296.00 | 148.00 | 74.00 |
| 75 inches | 1200.00 | 600.00 | 300.00 | 150.00 | 75.00 |
| 76 inches | 1216.00 | 608.00 | 304.00 | 152.00 | 76.00 |
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| 79 inches | 1264.00 | 632.00 | 316.00 | 158.00 | 79.00 |
| 80 inches | 1280.00 | 640.00 | 320.00 | 160.00 | 80.00 |
| 81 inches | 1296.00 | 648.00 | 324.00 | 162.00 | 81.00 |
| 82 inches | 1312.00 | 656.00 | 328.00 | 164.00 | 82.00 |
| 83 inches | 1328.00 | 664.00 | 332.00 | 166.00 | 83.00 |
| 84 inches | 1344.00 | 672.00 | 336.00 | 168.00 | 84.00 |
| 85 inches | 1360.00 | 680.00 | 340.00 | 170.00 | 85.00 |
| 86 inches | 1376.00 | 688.00 | 344.00 | 172.00 | 86.00 |
| 87 inches | 1392.00 | 696.00 | 348.00 | 174.00 | 87.00 |
| 88 inches | 1408.00 | 704.00 | 352.00 | 176.00 | 88.00 |
| 89 inches | 1424.00 | 712.00 | 356.00 | 178.00 | 89.00 |
| 90 inches | 1440.00 | 720.00 | 360.00 | 180.00 | 90.00 |
| 91 inches | 1456.00 | 728.00 | 364.00 | 182.00 | 91.00 |
| 92 inches | 1472.00 | 736.00 | 368.00 | 184.00 | 92.00 |
| 93 inches | 1488.00 | 744.00 | 372.00 | 186.00 | 93.00 |
| 94 inches | 1504.00 | 752.00 | 376.00 | 188.00 | 94.00 |
| 95 inches | 1520.00 | 760.00 | 380.00 | 190.00 | 95.00 |
| 96 inches | 1536.00 | 768.00 | 384.00 | 192.00 | 96.00 |
| 97 inches | 1552.00 | 776.00 | 388.00 | 194.00 | 97.00 |
| 98 inches | 1568.00 | 784.00 | 392.00 | 196.00 | 98.00 |
| 99 inches | 1584.00 | 792.00 | 396.00 | 198.00 | 99.00 |
| 100 inches | 1600.00 | 800.00 | 400.00 | 200.00 | 100.00 |

by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord." Zech. iv. 6. It is true, that His influence was more indirectly, than directly, exerted as now; but still, as the world per saw in the dying victim the death of the Messiah, the Holy Spirit gave joy to his heart as He does in our day. By the Law, Prophets, Priests and Symbols, Christ, the Savior of the world was proclaimed. Those who believed, had evidences of His renewing power, and rejoiced in the hope of His glory. By anticipation, the blessings of the future dispensation were bestowed upon them, and the Christ to come was trusted, just as if He had come. One of the offices of the Holy Spirit is, to reveal Christ and the things of Christ to His people. "He will guide you into all Truth." "He will receive of mine, and will tell it to you." The Word preached is accompanied by Him; "use it as a sword." A brother, however, has said, "The following amounts have been received, and proper credits have been entered on our books: W. H. C. COOPER, Oxford, \$2.50; W. E. BETTS, Blue Mountain, \$2.50; S. W. COLEMAN, New Orleans, \$10.00; J. H. PARKER, Franklin Springs, \$10.00; J. P. BROWN, Greenwood, \$10.00; G. ROBERTSON, Union, \$1.25; Robert F. MARSH, Sulphur, \$2.50; E. F. KING, St. Louis, \$12.50; W. W. WEAVER, Vicksburg, \$12.50; W. W. FIDLER, Tocochacha, \$1.25; J. N. HILL, \$2.00.

EJD. J. B. FUQUA.

"Received—That we heartily recommend EJD. J. B. Fuqua to the brotherhood throughout the State as a agent to raise funds and notes for Mississippi College, and as a brother who is well and favorably known in a large part of our State, and who has a record as a minister of the gospel which should command him to our people."

Bre. Fuqua is authorized to receive subscriptions for the Egdons.

The Holy Spirit's Work.

A brother highly esteemed, writes me to give my views, in the interest of the agency of the Holy Spirit in the work of regeneration, among the people of God, before the coming of Christ. The question is, as nearly as I can remember, (for I have lost the letter

FAMILY CIRCLE.

NEVER GO BACK ON A FRIEND.

Never go back on a friend
When his life with dark逆境is embroiled,
Even true to the end
With his sky with misfortune is clouded.
Add not one bitter pang more
To a soul that aches to bleeding;
Help not to rend more sore
A heart that is bleeding and breaking.

His soul will expel may shine,
And thine may be shrouded in sorrow.
The roses around him may twine,
And time may be withered tomorrow.
The earth may裂open, the sky may leap,
All thy gory possessions may perish
Over all thou dost value and cherish.

The road and the mellow day crept
Over the fates that had early gilded;
And the flowers, red and white, sweep
Over the spot where thy castle is builded.
The earth may level thy pride;

The crater may rend its crust,
And the red lava whelm in its hue,
And the hurricane hounds in dust.

Together at last you stand
Where the bold surprised its breath,
And lay alone, hand-in-hand,
Through the shades of the Valley of Death.
Let the stars, tender mantle through space,
And the fast of the slow win the race,
But never go back on a friend.

ONCE UPON A TIME.

ONLY A BABY'S GRAVE.

Only a baby's grave!
Some four or two of the most
Star-dashed souls, yet I think that God
Knows what that little grave cost.

Only a baby's grave!
Toddlers even so small,
They sit there and sing—so small a
thing.

Sounds scarcely a grave at all!

Only a baby's grave!
Did we measure grief by this,
Few tears were shed on our baby dead—
I know how they fell on this.

Only a baby's grave!
Will the life be much
To a grave for his diale,

This kingdom is made of such?

Only a baby's grave!
Yet often we come and sit
By the little stones, and thank God to own
We are nearer to him for it!

Letter on Novel Reading.

From the Greyson Letters, J.
To Miss Mary Gregson, 1.

MY DEAR NIECE—I am going to write you a long letter; but I would like to think it will be pleasant to you to read it, for it is to chide you. Yet, as you know I would not chide you except for your bad, or what I believe your good, I hope you will read these in an attentive, for your loving uncle's sake!

I saw my dear, with regret, during my recent visit, that you are too fond—far too fond—of novel reading. There I see you imploring book, and hear the expostulation, "Oh, Uncle! do you really think so?" Of course I think so, Mary, or I should not say so, for I never say what I do not think.

But I certainly do not expect to hear from you my love—for you are a girl of sense (be pleased to accept, again, that I do not say what I do not think)—will not that precipitate you? the answer I once received from a young lady to whom I addressed a similar expositation. I suppose, then," said she, "you would disapprove of all novel reading?" That thought it was the answer perfectly worthy of one whose logic has been fed on novels. "If," said I to her, "I were to blame a lad for eating too much, or too voraciously, or for his stomach with tarts or sugar-plums, would you infer that therefore I meant that he was not to eat at all, or that pastry and sweets were absolutely forbidden him?"

No, far from thinking that novels must not be innocently read; so far from that, I think they may be beneficially read. But all depends, as in the case of the tarts and the sugar-plums, on the quality and quantity.

The *education* is a faculty given us by God, as much as any other, and if it be not developed, our minds are ruined. New works of fiction of a high order, I assure you, as the best of Walter Scott or Miss Elgorth—beautifully stimulate this faculty; and a treasure, therefore, should be read.

Taste should be cultivated—and fictitious works, inspired by real genius, have a beautiful tendency that, I think, may often do, indicate important lessons of life and conduct, in a more pleasing form than the simply didactic style admits of.

When based on knowledge of human nature, and developed with dramatic skill, a novel may teach many an important truth of moral philosophy more effectively than an abstract treatise on it.

When the style of novels is what it ought to be—and what it will be, they are worth reading—they tend always an important part of education) to add to our knowledge of language, and our command over it. They should not, however, have some momental relaxation (and if the greater part of our hours be delightfully given to duty, we are both entitled to it and in need of it), such relaxation is easily and legitimately found in the occasional perusal of a judicious work of fiction.

You see how liberal I am, and that it is no old, musty, stale-advice that speaks to you, therefore "perpend my words."

Everything you observe, depends on quality and quantity. These must determine whether the novels you read be mental aliment or mental poison. Now, as to the first, I have no hesitation in saying that the immense majority of novels have no tendency to foul up the ends I have put out; they are mere rubbish, and give me, several of those

I recently saw in your hands from your circulating library deserve no other character. For my part, I should not care if some Caliph Omar treated all novels—except some three thousand volumes or so—as the original Caliph treated the Alexandrian Library, and made a huge bonfire of them. "Three thousand volumes," you will say, "why, that is the rate of a novel a week for twenty years!" You are liberal, indeed."

Very true, but I did not say you afterwards the ordinary run of this

would do well to read them all, though as many may be worth reading. And let me tell you, that you may learn something else from my admission, than the happy effects which his beautiful fictions would have, by sweeping clean the circulating libraries of infinite rubbish. "Sir Walter Scott's eyes," he tells us, "filled with tears." And no doubt his fictions had considerable effect in elevating the taste of that novel-reading generation; but a "new" generation, which I have spoken above, but has directly contrary tendency. These books enfeebles the intellect—impoverishes the imagination—vulgarizes taste and style—gives false or distorted views of life and human nature, and what is perhaps worst of all, wastes that precious time which might be given to solid and important improvement. I assure you I have often been astonished and grieved at the manner in which young minds, originally capable of better things, have been injured by continual dawdling over the slip-slop of inferior novels. They sink insensibly to the level of such books; and how can it be otherwise? for this pernicious appetite, which grows by what it eats, prevents the mind's coming in contact with anything better, and these wretched compositions become the standard. Observe that these minds are enfeebled, not only in tone—for that would result from reading too much of any novels, even the best, just as the stomach would get disordered from eating too much pastry, though the Queen's diarist cook might make it good. I mean enfeebled, degraded taste—in the perception of the True and Beautiful in works of high intellectual art. Such unprincipled minds talk with the interesting "characters" in these volumes of miserable fatuity, some "charming young Montezuma," or some "sweet Emma Montfort" (both more insipid than the "white of an egg"), who talk reams of soft nonsense, and get involved in absurd adventures which set all probability at defiance. Young ladies often melt into tears at mindless scenes, which to a just perception or a masculine taste could only produce laughter; condense to weigh the merits of slip-slop sentiment, despatch platitudes beneath all criticism; and savorily drink in the power of the vols. of the *"Broken Heart,"* with the equally tame three vols. of *"Pizarro, or the Bandit's Cave,"* when the reader contemplates any reader of such a book could wade through the pages of either) is to which the two works is most utterly bankrupt in knowledge, taste, character, style, and, in fact, every element that can redeem a work of fiction from being utterly contemptible and intolerable!

And this depravity of taste, before me, I assure you, in the most deplorable manner, that, so far from seeking this appointment, I have used every endeavor in my power to avoid it—not only from my unwillingness to part with you and the family, but from a consciousness of its being a trust too great for my capacity, and that I should enjoy more real happiness in one month with the distant prospect of finding abroad my stay to be seven times seven years. But as it has been a kind of destiny that has met me upon the command of it, I hope that my undertaking it is designed to answer some good purpose. You might, I suppose, object, from the tenor of my letter, that I was apprehensive of failing to make a good impression; but I did not pretend to intimate when I should return. That was the reason I was entirely out of my power to refuse this appointment, without exposing my character to such censures as would have reflected dishonor upon myself and given pain to my friends. This, I assure, could not, and ought not, to be pleasing to you, and must have lessened me considerably in my own esteem. I shall rely, therefore, confidently on that Providence which has heretofore preserved and been bountiful to me, not doubt, but that I shall return safe to you in the fall. I shall feel no pain from the toll or the danger of the campaign; my unfitness will flow from the uneasiness I know you will feel from being left alone. I, therefore, beg that you will summon your whole strength to pass your time as agreeably as possible. Nothing will give me, my dear, how they can still endure that charming Miss —, whom, under a hundred aliases they have already married to that sweet gentleman with an equal number of names in spite of the opposition of parents on both sides, dangerous rivals, and the most impossible harpies—scapes by flood and field!

Francesca alone, a poor, neatly dressed little girl, stood modestly apart, took the smallest loaf which was left in the basket, gratefully kissed the gentleman's hand, and then went home in a quiet and becoming manner.

In the following day the children were equally ill-behaved, and poor Francesca this time received a loaf which was scarcely half the size of the others. But when she came home, and when her sick mother cut the loaf, there fell out of it quite a number of bright silver pieces.

The mother was alarmed, and said, "Take this money instantly for it will doubt go into the bread through some mistake."

Francesca carried it back, but the benevolent gentleman declined to receive it.

"No, no," said he, "it was no mistake. I had the money baked in the smallest loaf simply as a reward for you, my child. Always continue thus contented, peaceful, and unassuming. The person who prefers to remain contented with the smaller loaf rather than quarrel for the larger one, will find blessings in this course of action still more valuable than the money was which I baked in your loaf."

Thus health and fortune bought with strict.

G. A. COULSON, Jackson, Tenn.,
Gen'l Agent for the South.

Kept in Clinton by Minnie, Dudley & Co.

A at a time when Curran was only

just rising into note, and while he was yet a poor and struggling man, Judge Robinson, it is said, ventured upon a sneering joke which, though it was, for Curran's ready wit and seething eloquence, might have done him irreparable injury. Speaking of some opinion of counsel on the opposite side, Curran said he had consulted all his books, and could not find a case in which the principle in dispute was thus established. "That may be, Mr. Curran," sneered the Judge, "but I suspect you are a scoundrel, toad, and scurvy fellow!"

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